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REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

Vol. III, No. 13

840 Boatmen's Bank Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

March 23, 1945

HOAG WRITES FROM THE PACIFIC

Yeoman 1/c Arnold W. Hoag writes the ROLL CALL an interesting letter from the Southwest Pacific. He has been doing some island hopping "down under", and responds to the Christmas greetings from the Finance Division by saying, "...It sure was nice to get something personal, because it makes you feel it wasn't so long ago we were all together in worldly places which were heard of before the war. Of course, there are plenty of new places that I've been to since the war started, and perhaps Tokyo could be next. That's being optimistic for the present because the Japs are a tough bunch, and they don't exactly give things away -- such as islands. These places are all right in movies, but after you get to looking at them awhile, they're all the same.

Things are pretty much okay by me....You might note that I've advanced, but rather slowly. That's mostly due to the fact that ratings are pretty much closed up except for vacancies, and I should know because I've got the job of ratings and advancements. It's quite interesting, but when you've finished working, there's not much recreation which makes working less enjoyable. I've been getting the good old REA ROLL CALL and enjoying it along with the rest of the mail which I'm always looking forward to. Mail is a big morale builder and it keeps the heart warm and the home fires burning."

INVENTOR ATKINSON DROPS IN

Capt. Frank Atkinson dropped in on REA last week while in St. Louis attending a meeting of an AAF technical board at which he presented a paper. He lives on the edge of a desert about 35 miles from the Victorville, Calif. air base, his headquarters, where he will continue his radar development work.

A west-coast company is starting manufacture of 300 "Perma-Fault Isolators", a device invented by Atkinson and Bruce O. Watkins, now a Navy lieutenant in the South Pacific, and both on military furlough from REA's Technical Standards Division.

NO WILD LIFE ON OAHU

Ensign J. Howard White writes to his D & C cronies all about the beauties of Oahu Island. Excerpts from his letter tell us, "As far as California climate is concerned -- it can't hold a candle to the kind of weather the people here enjoy. The islands are very beautiful, but the signs of wild life are almost completely missing. The jungle portion of the island should be a heaven for wild life, but from all appearances it does not exist.

"We had an uneventful trip over with the exception of the usual seasickness. In spite of the fact that we had two very rough days (I am bragging now), I was not affected in the least. In fact I ate and slept so much I believe I gained about 10 pounds on the way over.

"You can most likely guess I had to go below to find out for myself what made the ship move through the water. I found it quite interesting and the marine plants are not much different from those steam plants for land based duty.

"Maybe I was a bit pessimistic about the time that the war would be over (Ed. note: He had predicted 4 years), and I could return home.

(Cont'd in next column)

REA "AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE"?

When REA gets ready to confer on anyone the title "Ambassador-at-Large", Technical Sgt. 5/c Albert O'Donnell will be in line for it. Al is "down under", stationed at Australia's capitol city, Brisbane, where a commission is busy tackling Australia's rural development problems. One phase of this group's study is rural electrification, and here's where Al comes in. He was invited to attend sessions of this planning commission, and now on his time off from official duties he hies himself to its headquarters and enters into rural electrification discussions with the members. His experience at REA naturally equips him with knowledge and suggestions which the Australian group finds helpful.

An interesting slant to the situation, proving once again the world isn't so big after all, centers around the chief accountant of this Australian study group, R. W. Picking, whose daughter was at one time a pen pal of Faith Walters, daughter of Allyn Walters.

SUCCESS CROWNS RED CROSS DRIVE

The Red Cross Drive progresses well in REA. The local press cited it as one of the foremost groups, in point of funds raised. The record shows that a grand total of \$3,872.75, representing 683 employee participants averaging \$5.67 per capita, was subscribed by REA.

THE LOST ARE FOUND!

For some time now the ROLL CALL editors have done considerable fretting over three servicemen not getting this publication. Copies were mailed out regularly and as regularly returned. But the worry is over; diligent effort has been rewarded. Correct or current addresses for all three of them have been obtained. In the case of Cpl. Robin Lett, 28 issues of Roll Call and Span, the oldest dated January 1943, had been returned to us. No one seemed to know anything about him until one day a notice on one of the bulletin boards asking for information about Cpl. Letts brought results -- someone in REA had heard from him. The second case involved another corporal, James C. McReynolds. A correct address was supplied by a call to the city postoffice about the APO number. The third case solved itself when Sgt. Harold T. Pyfrom wrote in his address to the ROLL CALL. The moral of this story is: Keep the ROLL CALL posted about your address changes.

OAHU

(Cont'd)

Instead of it being four years it may be three years and nine months. It is going to be a tough row to hoe."

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

REA's Seventh Gold Star

Flight Officer Leslie J. (Jimmy) Gruner

Killed in Crash in England

13 February 1945

COLUMN WRITE!

Cpl. Syd Berger, writing from Ft. Jackson, March 12, says, "My old outfit has been shipped to England. Due to our air superiority and shortage of infantrymen, a lot of AA, Air Corps, and other troops have been transferred to the infantry -- which is why I'm here. We've just finished a 6 weeks' training program." . . . S/S Frank McEtee from his 12th Repair Squadron somewhere in the Southwest Pacific writes his Management pals, "Thanks a lot for the swell Christmas card. I receive Span and Roll Call regularly, so can keep up with most REA activities. I've been doing machine work for nearly 3 years now...I imagine the weather in St. Louis is pretty nice these days. It should be cooler here soon, and we'll be wearing long pants again" . . . Another letter from the Pacific comes from Lt. (j.g.) Raynor H. Severine who writes, "There is little need for me to describe the beauties of Oahu for many other REA'ers have done that before me. I, too, have enjoyed it here, but it will not be my home for long. I have another island all picked out far west of here to be my home for awhile." . . . Pfc. Charles Parrott writes on March 11 from somewhere overseas, "It's really good to get Span, Roll Call, and the Legalite and to read what your friends are doing. Was so sorry to hear about Captain Smith. I know he will be greatly missed. . . This place isn't half bad here; in fact, it's beginning to look better by the day, but it will never look as good as St. Louis." . . . Mrs. Audrey M. Murphy, file room clerk, has received a letter from her son, Taylor O. Murphy, R.M. 3/c, enclosing a memorandum signed by Rear Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, Commander of Amphibious Group ONE, extolling her son and other members of the staff. It says in part, "Your long days and hours of hard and efficient work have been attended by results which not only pleased me, but have brought forth favorable comment from the Secretary of the Navy, Vice Admiral Turner, Lt. Gen. Holland Smith, and Rear Admiral Hill . . ." . . . Lt. Comdr. William Paul Stevens' mother has written from San Marcos, Texas. "He volunteered for Navy service in July, 1942. After some special training in Washington, D.C., he was sent to Harvard and M.I.T. for intensive scientific training in electronics and Naval administration; next to Corpus Christi Naval Air Station for Naval aeronautical operations; then to Pacific combat areas where for the past 14 months he has been officer in charge of a Radar Training Unit including, among others, the Philippine campaign." . . . S 1/c Steve Strojny writes to his friends in Tech. Standards telling them, "I'm still at Great Lakes and working pretty hard. Next month I hope to get to the Navy Pier in Chicago, where I will study radio and other Navy Gear, as they speak of it here. We get liberty at least every other week here at Great Lakes, and in Chicago it will be even better. At least every week-end." . . . The most recent letter from Pvt. John J. Tvelia is headed up "somewhere in France," APO 79, in care of the New York postmaster. . . Lt. Comdr. Ernst L. Rushmer writes that his present address will be good until the class of which he is a member at the Naval War College graduates the first week in June. After that he feels he will undoubtedly go on his third tour of duty in the Pacific. . . T/4 Charles Cox comes up from his serving in the Italian campaign long enough to write us, "I have been one of your poorer correspondents, but....I assure you it is a real thrill to get your publica-

tions and keep track of so many of my former friends. I like to read about the men and women in service; where they are, and what they are doing....Perhaps I should try and write something about life of the soldier in Italy, but that would be a most difficult assignment." . . . Three years away from REA have not dimmed memories for John B. Russell, RT 3/c, now stationed in Chicago at the Navy Pier. He writes, "There are still many familiar names in Span. Judging from the Roll Call, REA is well represented at all points of the globe." John tells us in a letter dated March 11 that he entered Radio Technician training with the Navy about 10 months ago, three of which he spent at Oklahoma A&M. The rest of the course has been in Chicago. In six more weeks he will finish his course. . . Maj. D.E. Dasler, writing from the European Theatre of Operations, writes a long and interesting letter to his cronies in Tech. Standards. Among other things he says, "Only two more weeks and I will celebrate another anniversary, though it isn't the kind of an anniversary that one celebrates. At that time I will have been in the Army for the total of four years....The time has gone fast and much has happened, but never have I felt far from you and the office back there, thanks to the letters....I shall try to see the Black Forest and also the power system in Karlsruhe when this mess is cleaned up....We have had a few touches of spring in the air....Even now Sunday afternoon on the Champs-Elysee is a fashion show on parade again. I had a most interesting experience a few weeks ago when I met one of the foremost marine engineers and naval architects of France. His name is M. Guaroult and he has been in on the design of many of France's large liners and merchant ships....It seemed so good to speak of engineering things again even though they were not in the field of electricity." . . . Orton L. Evans, Finance Division, field auditor, entered the Army February 15.

HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT: Capt. Andrew Tesaman to APO 17572, New York; Sgt. Harold T. Pyfrom to APO 958, San Francisco; Lt. Orville Zastrow to Camp Pinedale, Fresno, Calif.; Cpl. R. Robin Lett to APO 760, New York; Capt. Lorne M. Holdaway to APO 953, San Francisco; Lt. Robert C. Holland to FPO, New York; Lt. Joseph Kaminski, Jr., to Navy Yard, Boston; Capt. Elmer A. Loetterle to APO 374, New York; Lt. Comdr. Wm. P. Stevens to FPO, San Francisco; Lt. H. W. Thiesfeld, to FPO, San Francisco; Major Roy G. Zook to APO 18086, New York; Ens. J. Howard White to FPO, San Francisco; Capt. Richard J. Lunsford to APO 11390, San Francisco; Cpl. Carroll Starns to APO 28, New York; Lt. Comdr. Ernest L. Rushmer to Naval War College, Newport, R.I.; Capt. Frank Atkinson to Victorville, Calif.; John B. Russell, RT 3/c, Navy Pier, Chicago; Pfc. Charles Parrott to FPO, San Francisco; Cpl. Syd Berger to Ft. Jackson, S.C.; Pvt. Joseph M. Petito to APO 18655, New York.

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Married: Willena Frost of D&C to 1st Lieut. Richard L. Allen, also of D&C Division on military furlough, Saturday, March 17 in Granite City, Ill.

GOING UP

Cpl. H. Carroll Starns Arnold Hoag, Ylc
Capt. Richard J. Lunsford Cpl. R. Robin Lett
Lt. Comdr. William P. Stevens